

Shari J. Cantor, West Hartford, CT

My husband and I are the parents of a wonderful 21-year-old son on the Autism Spectrum, specifically diagnosed with Asperger's. He graduated from the town of West Hartford's Achieve Program in June, 2014 and is currently employed at CVS, New Britain Avenue, West Hartford and Marshall's, Bishop's Corner, West Hartford. He earns minimum wage, working as a stock clerk for a total between the two jobs of 20 hours per week. He currently lives at home, is covered under our health insurance policy and does not drive. We live within walking distance of CVS and five miles from Marshall's. Because of CT Transit routes, he is able to take a bus home from Marshall's, but must be driven there.

Because of our son's social skills (or lack thereof) and his lack of math skills and certain reasoning skills, I do not anticipate that he will ever qualify or be able to hold a position significantly higher than he currently holds. He is unable to obtain a job on his own, due to his inability to interview well. It is unlikely that he will ever be able to afford to live on his own. I am 60 and my husband is 58. Eventually, due to illness or death, we will be unable to drive or house him. He has no siblings.

Our son is exactly the person who will be hurt by cuts to the DDS. I am testifying against the Governor's proposed cuts to DDS and requesting that the Appropriations Committee stop the cuts to DDS, restore full funding to DDS and fund the DDS waiting list.

Sincerely,

Shari J. Cantor